



THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES
OF THE FLATHEAD NATION

P.O. BOX 278
Pablo, Montana 59855
(406) 275-2700
FAX (406) 275-2806
www.cskt.org



A People of Vision

Tribal Gaming Commission

A Confederation of the Salish,
Upper Pend d'Oreilles
and Kootenai Tribes

January 11, 2010

Mr. Brad Mehaffy
National Indian Gaming Commission
1441 L Street, NW. Suite 9100
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Mehaffy;

Re: Comment on NIGC NEPA Procedures Manual

On behalf of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Gaming Commission (Commission) we are writing to comment on NIGC's draft NEPA Procedure Manual. One of our primary concerns is why is NIGC drafting this manual, when it doesn't appear there has been problems with NEPA compliance.

We hope this is not a unilateral attempt by the NIGC to assume authority not provided in federal law and to micromanage tribal government regulation and intrude upon the sovereign rights of tribes to manage their own affairs. By going beyond NIGC's authority and duplicating existing Federal and Tribal laws and regulations that are currently in place and become burdensome for Tribes.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration. We sincerely hope the NIGC will remember that we as the primary regulators of gaming on the reservation and work diligently in complying with all tribal, federal and state laws and regulations in order to ensure that gaming is conducted honestly and free of criminal and corruptive elements.

Sincerely,

Forrest Lester

Forrest Lester, Chairman
CSKT Tribal Gaming Commission

CC: CSKT Tribal Council

TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:

James Steele Jr. – Chairman
E.T. "Bud" Moran – Vice Chair
Steve Lozar – Secretary
Jim Malatare – Treasurer
Joe Durglo
Carole Lankford
Michel Kenmille
Reuben A. Mathias
Charles L. Morigeau
Terry L. Pitts

JAN 13 PM 12:59

RECEIVED
NATIONAL INDIAN
GAMING COMMISSION